

(1) *Financial reports.* Each audit committee must oversee management's preparation of the report to shareholders; review the impact of any significant accounting and auditing developments; review accounting policy changes relating to preparation of financial statements; and review annual and quarterly reports prior to release. After the audit committee reviews a financial policy, procedure, or report, it must record in its minutes its agreement or disagreement with the item(s) under review.

(2) *External auditors.* The external auditor must report directly to the audit committee. Each audit committee must:

(i) Determine the appointment, compensation, and retention of external auditors issuing audit reports of the institution; and

(ii) Review the external auditor's work.

(3) *Internal controls.* Each audit committee must oversee the institution's system of internal controls relating to preparation of financial reports, including controls relating to the institution's compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Any internal audit functions of the institution must also be subject to audit committee review and supervision.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 71 FR 76120, Dec. 20, 2006, §620.30 was amended by revising paragraph (d)(2), effective 30 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER during which either or both Houses of Congress are in session. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 620.30 Audit committees.

(d) * * *

(2) *External auditors.* The external auditor must report directly to the audit committee. Each audit committee must:

(i) Determine the appointment, compensation, and retention of external auditors issuing audit reports of the institution;

(ii) Review the external auditor's work;

(iii) Give prior approval for any non-audit services performed by the external auditor, except the audit committee may not approve those non-audit services specifically prohibited by FCA regulation; and

(iv) Comply with the auditor independence provisions of part 621 of this chapter.

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§ 620.31 Compensation committees.

Each Farm Credit bank and association must establish and maintain a compensation committee by adopting a written charter describing the committee's composition, authorities, and responsibilities in accordance with this section. All compensation committees will be required to maintain records of meetings, including attendance, for at least 3 fiscal years.

(a) *Composition.* Each compensation committee must consist of at least three members. Each committee member must be a member of the institution's board of directors. Every member must be free from any relationship that, in the opinion of the board, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment as a committee member.

(b) *Duties.* Each compensation committee must report only to the board of directors. In its capacity as a committee of the board, the compensation committee is responsible for reviewing the compensation policies and plans for senior officers and employees. Each compensation committee must approve the overall compensation program for senior officers.

(c) *Resources.* Each institution must provide monetary and nonmonetary resources to enable its compensation committee to function.

PART 621—ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Subpart A—Purpose and Definitions

Sec.

621.1 Purpose and applicability.

621.2 Definitions.

Subpart B—General Rules

621.3 Application of generally accepted accounting principles.

621.4 Audit by qualified public accountant.

621.5 Accounting for the allowance for loan losses and chargeoffs.

Subpart C—Loan Performance and Valuation Assessment

621.6 Performance categories and other property owned.

621.7 Rule of aggregation.

621.8 Application of payments and income recognition on nonaccrual loans.

621.9 Reinstatement to accrual status.